

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/718,647

Examiner

William Bangachon

Applicant(s)

BRILLON, ALAIN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/24/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 11/24/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Benoit Castel on June 17, 2005.

#### **Claims 1-3, 7-8, 11, and 15 in the application has been amended as follows:**

1. A process for the automatic locking from afar of a vehicle (2) equipped with a hands-free access system in which the vehicle is equipped with short-range antennas (4, 6, 8) intended to send a signal to a tag furnished with a receiver for receiving the signals sent by the short-range antennas (4, 6, 8) of the vehicle and a transmitter of longer range than the short-range antennas (4, 6, 8) of the vehicle for transmitting signals in response to signals received from the vehicle which comprises;

instructing the locking of the vehicle when the doors of the vehicle to be locked are closed and when the vehicle receives from the tag a signal (18, 18') containing a cue indicating that the level of reception by the tag of the signals (10, 10', 22) transmitted by the vehicle (2) is low or zero, with at least one signal sent previously by the vehicle (2) having been received with normal level of reception.

2. The locking process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the signals transmitted by the short-range antennas (4, 6, 8) of the vehicle for the implementation of this process are signals of low frequency of the order of 125 kHz.

3. The locking process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the signals transmitted by the tag for the implementation of this process are signals of radio frequency of the order of 433 MHz.

7. The locking process as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the tag transmits toward the vehicle a first signal (14) in response to a signal transmitted by the vehicle when the amplitude of the signal received is greater than predetermined threshold and that the tag transmits toward the vehicle a second signal (18) different than the first, in the converse case.

8. The locking process as claimed claim 7, characterized in that the second signal (18) is not sent when abrupt variation in the signal amplitude measured detected.

11. The locking process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the tag periodically sends a first signal (14') in response to an interrogation by a signal (10') originating from the vehicle, and in that the tag continues to transmit when it no longer receives the vehicle's interrogations but then sends a second signal (18') indicating that

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it has not received any signal originating from the vehicle since the last signal that it transmitted.

15. The locking process as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the signals transmitted by the tag for the implementation of this process are signals of radio frequency of the order of 433 MHz.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In claim 1, the cited prior art do not teach "instructing the locking of the vehicle when a) the doors of the vehicle be locked are closed and when b) the vehicle receives from the tag a signal (18, 18') containing a cue indicating that the level of reception by the tag of the signals (10, 10', 22) transmitted by the vehicle (2) is low or zero, with c) at least one signal sent previously by the vehicle (2) having been received with normal level of reception". Claims 2-16 are dependent claims and therefore allowable for the same reason.

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USP 6,336,333 (King), USP 5,710,548 (LeMense), and USP 5,379,033 (Fujii et al) are cited in that these patents teach of keyless entry systems. However, these

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patents do not teach combining steps a), b), and c) above, in instructing the locking of a vehicle, as claimed in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Contact Information***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William Bangachon whose telephone number is (571) 272-3065. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/4/10.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on (571) 272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

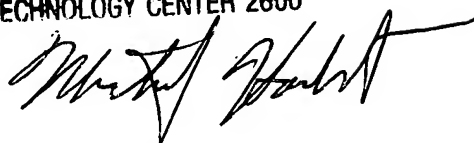
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William Bangachon  
Examiner  
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June 20, 2005

MICHAEL HORABIK  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Horabik", written over the printed name and title.